

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: WALKER et al.

) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Herewith

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket No: 01-050

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
UTILIZING DEMAND INFORMATION AT
A VENDING MACHINE

Customer No.: 22927



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope with sufficient postage and addressed to: Box Patent Application, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on November 27, 2001.

Dated: 11/27/2001 By: _____

Michael D. Brinton

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, entry of the following amendments into the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

A M E N D M E N T

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **CANCEL** Claims 64-75 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited herein.

Please **ADD** new Claims 76-83 as follows:

76. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a vending machine;

a device in communication with the vending machine,

in which the apparatus is operable to

receive a selection of a first product from a purchaser;

retrieve a substitute product identifier corresponding to a substitute product; and

offer the substitute product to the purchaser.

77. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 76, in which the device is operable to:

receive payment from a purchaser.

78. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 77, in which the device is operable to:

instruct the vending machine that payment has been received.

79. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 76, in which the device is operable to:

receive data via a network.

80. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 80, in which the device is operable to:

display to a purchaser data received via the network.

81. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 76, in which the device is operable to:

receive input from a purchaser.

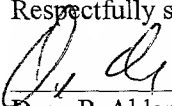
82. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 81, in which the device is operable to:
receive input from a purchaser via a touch screen.
83. (NEW) A method, comprising:
receiving from a purchaser a selection of a first product from a vending
machine;
determining a second product; and
offering the second product to the purchaser.

R E M A R K S

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the present application, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below or by electronic mail at Alderucci@walkerdigital.com.

November 27, 2001
Date

Respectfully submitted,



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